



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 18 2017

Michael P. Walls
Vice President, Regulatory & Technical Affairs
American Chemistry Council
700 Second St., NE
Washington, DC 20002

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Re: Request for extension of comment period: Methylene Chloride and N-Methylpyrrolidone; Regulation of Certain Uses Under TSCA § 6(a) (docket ID EPA-HQ-OPPT-2016-0231) and Trichloroethylene; Regulation of Vapor Degreasing Under TSCA § 6(a) (docket ID EPA-HQ-OPPT-2016-0387)

Dear Mr. Walls:

Thank you for your letter of March 17, 2017, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requesting that the comment periods for the proposed rules on the use of trichloroethylene (TCE) in vapor degreasing (RIN 2070-AK11) and the uses of methylene chloride and N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP) in paint and coating removal (RIN 2070-AK07) be extended by 120 days to August 17, 2017.

We appreciate your participation in the comment process. We have decided to partially grant this request by extending the comment period for 30 days for both the proposed rule on TCE in vapor degreasing and on methylene chloride and NMP in paint and coating removal in the interest of receiving comprehensive public comment for the benefit of the current rules. The comment periods for both proposed rules will now remain open until May 19, 2017. EPA previously extended the comment period for the proposed rule for TCE in vapor degreasing by 30 days. The Agency believes an additional 30 days beyond the current comment period for this rule and beyond the original 90 days for the proposed rule on methylene chloride and NMP in paint and coating removal to be sufficient for receiving additional comment without creating further delays in subsequent administrative steps related to either the current or future rule proposals.

Any questions regarding this response should be directed to Joel Wolf at (202) 564-0432.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wendy C. Hamnett", is written over a horizontal line.

Wendy Cleland-Hamnett
Acting Assistant Administrator